

# **The Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award**



**Presented posthumously to**

**Deputy Chief Raymond M. Downey**  
**Special Operations Command**  
**Fire Department of New York**

**25 May 2002**



**Presented Aboard**  
the  
**USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)**  
during  
**New York City Fleet Week**



Modern U.S. Navy amphibious assault ships are called upon to perform as primary landing ships for assault operations of Marine expeditionary units. Amphibious warships are uniquely designed to support assault from the sea against defended positions ashore. They must be able to sail in harm's way and provide a rapid built-up of combat power ashore in the face of opposition. The United States maintains the largest and most capable amphibious force in the world. The *USS Iwo Jima* (LHD 7) is the newest ship in the *Wasp*-class, the largest amphibious ships in the world. It was commissioned on 30 June, 2001. It has a length of 844 feet, a beam of 110 feet, and a displacement of 40,500 tons. It uses Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), conventional landing craft and helicopters to move Marine assault forces ashore. In a secondary role, using AV-8B *Harrier* aircraft and anti-submarine warfare helicopters, it performs sea control and limited power projection missions. The *USS Iwo Jima* is commanded by Captain John T. Nawrocki.

# **Program of Events**

**4:00 PM, 25 May 2002**

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

**Remarks and  
Presentation of the Award**

Brigadier General William D. Catto  
Commanding General  
Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory

**Remarks**

The Downey Family

**Conclusion**

*Please join us for a reception in the ship's  
spaces following the presentation.*

The *Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award* is the highest recognition that the Secretary of the Navy can confer to a civilian. It is awarded only in extraordinary cases where individuals have demonstrated exceptionally outstanding service of substantial and long-term benefit to the Navy, Marine Corps, or the Department of the Navy as a whole. In particular, this award recognizes Chief Downey's long association with and highly valued contributions to MCWL and CBIRF.



### ***Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL)***

MCWL's purpose is to improve current and future naval expeditionary warfare capabilities across the spectrum of conflict. This is accomplished through concept-based experimentation and wargaming to identify, develop, and intergrade operational concepts, tactics, techniques, procedures and technologies. MCWL is also responsible for conducting a broad and flexible wargaming program for the Marine Corps, prominent in which is Title X Wargaming that seeks to integrate the future Marine Corps vision, operational concepts, and capabilities into the full range of national military power.



### ***Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF)***

CBIRF's mission is, when directed, to forward-deploy and/or respond to a credible threat of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) incident in order to assist local, state, or federal agencies and designated CINCs in the conduct of consequence management operations by providing capabilities for agent detection and identification; casualty search, rescue, and personnel decontamination; and emergency medical care and stabilization of contaminated personnel.